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FROM Amconsul DAMASCUS

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TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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ARMY-4 NAVY-3

SUBJECT: Al-Ra'y al-'Amm Editorial on 'AMER Visit to Saudi Arabia

*AIR-1
Khartoum*

Enclosure 1 is the Consulate General's translation of an editorial which interpreted General 'Amer's visit to King SAUD August 6 as evidence that King Saud has recognized the necessity of basing his policy on close association with Cairo and Damascus.

Parker T. Hart
Parker T. Hart
American Consul General

Enclosure: *at*
Translation of Editorial

cc: Aleppo
Cairo

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REVIEWED BY *Frank B. Brown* DATE *3/2/83*

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Translation

al-Ra'y al-'Amm
August 7, 1958

THIS IS OUR OPINION

Meaning of Field Marshall 'Amer's Trip to Saudi Arabia

Many will be surprised to learn today that Field Marshall 'Abd al-Hakim 'AMER, Vice-President of the UAR, arrived yesterday in al-Ta'ef and was received with full honors and invited to a dinner given in his honor by King SAUD. They will be surprised because they know that Field Marshall 'Amer is President 'Abd al-NASSER's right-hand man, and because they know the details of the deplorable plot which King Saud had devised against the life of President Abdul Nasser and against the unity of Syria and Egypt and their amalgamation as the United Arab Republic.

But those who know that President 'Abd al-Nasser is not motivated by rancor when he is dealing with questions of Arab Nationalism, and that he always aspires to clemency and forgiveness when clemency and forgiveness serve the interests of the Arab nation, were not astonished to learn of the meeting between Field Marshall 'Amer and King Saud. The United Arab Republic is intent, not on liberating the Arab nation from monarchy, but, in the first stage, on liberating the Arab countries from imperialism and its agents, and on their all following together the road toward unity, progress, and the assumption of their proper place in the international scene.

We believe that the Saudi royal house was the initiator of the contacts with the responsible authorities in the United Arab Republic on the question of improving relations between the two states, after the great Iraqi revolt had succeeded and the world, including the Governments of the West headed by America and Britain, had rushed to recognize the Iraqi Republic within two weeks of its creation. Haste on the part of the Saudi royal house was a wise step, because King Saud knew that "the Union of the Holy Crowns," of whose policy and aspirations he had assumed leadership, under American protection, had come to a definitive end. As for the remnants, the throne of Husayn bin Zayn, King Saud knows better than anyone else it is on the way to extinction.

The rapid evolution of events in the Arab Nation must have constituted proof for King Saud that his brother, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Faysal, was right when he insisted that the Saudi throne had two chief supports, understanding with Cairo and understanding with Damascus, and that any attempt to base the throne on anything in the Arab world other than these two supports was foolhardiness, exposing the Saudi throne to the danger of obliteration. King Saud had tried the policy of embracing treason, represented by Husayn bin

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Zayn, when he sent units of the Saudi Army to participate in the American-sponsored overthrow of the legal Government in Jordan, when he supported this overthrow with millions of dollars diverted from the subsistence of the Arab people of Saudi Arabia, when he buried at Dulles' advice his traditional differences with the Hashemite throne in Iraq in order to permit the continuance of imperialist domination over the Iraqi people, and, even worse, when he conspired against Syro-Egyptian unity and against the life of 'Abd al-Nasser, champion and leader of Arab nationalism. The result was that when some of his brothers saw that the Arab people in the Saudi Arabia Kingdom wished to be rescued from both the monarchy and the Saudi family, they led a revolt against him and he was compelled to turn the affairs of Government over to his brother, Prince Faysal, who restored Saudi policy to what it had been a little earlier, a policy of desisting from conspiracy against Arab nationalism. He also tempered somewhat the warmth of the relationship between the Saudi House and the Hashemite thrones in Baghdad and Amman, but he could not put the Saudi Arabia Kingdom back on the road of complete cooperation and understanding with Arab nationalism, represented by 'Abd al-Nasser.

When the Arab revolt succeeded in liberating Iraq and it became clear to all that the Arab people in Jordan would get rid of the throne of Husayn bin Zayn before many more days, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom found itself isolated from the Arab nation and even King Saud knew that isolation carried a germ which could be fatal to the Saudi throne. He knew that even if he changed his Government to the satisfaction of his own people, the way to stay in power was to bring the Saudi Arabian Kingdom back to the bosom of Arab nationalism. Therefore occurred the contacts with Cairo and the Ta'ef meeting.

The question which every Arab citizen must pose himself is: "Is King Saud this time true to his word?" The answer is that every Arab hopes that King Saud has learned from past experience that in any new exploit he would be the loser. Arab nationalism will move onward from victory to victory, because its cause is just.

Ahmed 'Asseh

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